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U.S. Defector Called Psychotic In '61 Divorce

By the Associated Press

John Smith, the American defector whose claims to have been a Central Intelligence Agency operative are being heralded in the Soviet press, was described by his wife in a 1961 divorce action as psychotic.

Mary London Smith won an uncontested divorce that year after telling the Pinellas County (Fla.) Circuit Court that a psychiatrist had found Smith was "in an acute stage of paranoia." She also testified Smith suspected virtually everyone around him of being plotters.

The Russians announced two months ago that Smith was in the Soviet Union. Since then he has written or been the subject of press articles purporting to relate inside information on CIA activities.

The State Department said yesterday that Smith worked from 1950 to 1959 as a communications clerk in the New Delhi embassy. Spokesmen said he never worked for the CIA.